

Cetacean population

Will be assessed through a regional aerial survey aimed at collecting visual sightings of Black Sea cetaceans.

The aerial survey will be conducted in both territorial waters and exclusive economical zones of Romania, Bulgaria, Turkey and Ukraine in the Black Sea.



Line transect aerial survey will be conducted, using small planes with high wings and bubble windows.



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Activities

Noise monitoring

The pilot actions for noise monitoring will allow to test methodologies applied in other marine areas and to define proposals and recommendations for D11 noise monitoring in the Black Sea.



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The pilot studies will assess the underwater noise level in dedicated locations on the Sea shelf of Member States.

A training workshop will be organized with participants from all the Black Sea countries. It will be aimed at strengthening capacities on D11 monitoring, addressing both anthropogenic impulsive sound in water and anthropogenic continuous low-frequency sound in water criteria.

By-catch monitoring

Pilot activities on cetaceans by-catch monitoring will be implemented. Data will be collected through port questionnaires and on-board observers. Postmortem examination of cetacean carcasses stranded ashore will be conducted as an independent estimation of bycatch rate with special focus of the IUU fisheries.



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This activity is aimed at demonstrating the feasibility of developing bycatch monitoring programme in a harmonized manner in the Black Sea to fill gaps on distribution, intensity and effects of bycatch pressure on cetaceans

Objectives

Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) represents the pillar of European Union, which aim is "Good Environmental Status" (GES) in European marine waters by 2020. As is well known, the Black Sea is one of the most vulnerable regional seas and Romania and Bulgaria are the European Member States responsible for implementation of MSFD, in close collaboration with the other non EU countries, Ukraine and Turkey. Two-year project activities started in January 2019 to collect baseline data on the distribution/abundance of Black Sea cetacean populations, bycatch pressure, and to implement effective noise monitoring in the region.

Common dolphin ©Mare Nostrum



The main objectives are to assess D1 (Biological Diversity) cetacean related criteria and establishment of thresholds values, to assess and support the development of D11 (Energy and Noise) monitoring in the Black Sea and to enhance coordination among the Black Sea region through the dissemination of the project activities, results and outcomes.

Partners



<https://www.marenostrum.ro/content/biodiversitate/cenobs>

Coordinator project:

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Project

Support
MSFD implementation
in the Black Sea
through establishing
a regional monitoring
system of cetaceans (D1)
and noise monitoring (D11)
for achieving GES



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